

**Mtg mission of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)  
6 June, Brussels**

**Steering note**

**Description of the context, the agenda and the issues to be discussed**

**Ambassador**

to the EU, in Brussels, has requested a courtesy meeting in order to discuss possible cooperation between DG EAC and the OIC. He will be accompanied by his Deputy

**Our objective**

- Inform about the Commission's work on the objectives of the Paris Declaration and in the Framework of ET 2020.
- Exchange views on possibilities for future cooperation, particularly on preventing violent radicalisation and promoting inclusion in Europe.

**Line to take**

General

- Violent radicalisation is a **common concern** for muslims and non-muslims alike. Acknowledge the complex situation in the world and in Europe, but stress that it is possible to live together peacefully with mutual understanding, communication and trust. What counts is to share and respect **fundamental values and fundamental rights** (including equal treatment for women and men). It is perfectly possible to integrate the culture and religion in modern, secular European society.
- **Religious organisations have an essential role** to play in supporting the integration of migrants in European societies and in helping to prevent the violent radicalisation of young people.
- The organisation of Islamic Cooperation can be a **valuable partner** in promoting inclusion and intercultural understanding. The Commission would be interested in **reinforcing cooperation with the OIC** in the implementation of the Paris Declaration (key Commission priority).

Implementation of the Paris Declaration

- **Steps taken** to implement Paris declaration since its adoption in 2015:
  - COM reviewed its policy frameworks in education, training and youth to reflect this new priority
  - Mobilised funding under the E+ programme
  - Priority given to projects implementing the objectives of the Declaration within an envelope of 400M euros for transnational cooperation projects
  - Dedicated call to upscale successful grass-roots initiatives - 13M

- Commissioner Navracsics hosted a **Colloquium** on promoting inclusion and fundamental values through education – a way to prevent violent radicalisation on 26 May.

There he announced a **concrete measures** (see leaflet) that he will implement in 2016-17, for instance

- *Ambassadors for inclusion programme*
  - *Virtual youth exchanges*
  - School to school exchanges via the expanded *e-twinning* tool to foster exchanges also with neighbouring countries
- Impending adoption of a Communication outlining the EU's contribution to support Member States in preventing radicalisation leading to violent extremism (10/6).
- Creation of a virtual mobility platform allowing exchanges between young people from EU and South Med. Aim: 200.000 participants by 2019.

#### Possible topics for discussion

#### **Role of OIC in countering violent radicalisation**

- How does OIC see its role in countering the violent radicalisation?
- What role for muslim communities in a more general sense in preventing violent radicalisation?

#### Possibilities for cooperation

- We have worked closely in the past 15 years with our Southern Mediterranean neighbours in the framework of Erasmus+ and predecessor programmes
- We have a budget of around 70 Meuro per year to fund incoming and outgoing mobility and capacity building for universities from this region.
- eTwinning is open to Tunisia on a pilot basis
- Commission will have a policy dialogue in education with the South Mediterranean Ministries of Education in July.
- [REDACTED] you could explore the interest of OIC for possible **awareness raising** activities.
- The objective of such activities could be to:
  - a) work towards a common identity and show that many different identities that don't rule out one another, but strengthen each other. It is perfectly possible to be Muslim and European, and to live as a Muslim in the European society;
  - b) Use role models for both boys and girls/men and women who manage to reconcile different identities.